

INSIDE

Baked goods = great holidays

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Downtown News, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER

The Brooklyn Papers

FOR 25 YEARS

HOPE FOR PS 8

Bid to attract local students to ailing school in Heights

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The only public elementary school in Brooklyn Heights will undergo a dramatic change in curriculum next year targeted at attracting parents from the neighborhood, as well as neighboring DUMBO and Fulton Ferry, and ending the school's steady downward spiral over the past several years.

A committee of about 30 people has been convened by School District 13 Superintendent Dr. Lester Young to study various models of education that could be implemented at PS 8 at 37 Hicks St. by September.

"The ideas generated so far are an integrated curriculum, lots of professional development for teachers, an idea for serving all the communities that are now involved," said Dr. Lew Smith, the associate dean of program development and outreach at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education, who was hired as a consultant to facilitate the PS 8 restructuring. "A lot of attention is being paid to what is called 'best practices'—there are a lot of exemplary teaching methods that are being practiced around the country."

With forthcoming public hearings on the restructuring, committee members were hesitant to discuss specifically what, if any, vision has been defined for the program thus far.

Although parents have lauded the school's small class sizes and artistic curriculum, PS 8's reading and math numbers have tumbled over the past few years.

According to the then-Board of Education's 2000-2001 annual school report card, enrollment fell since 1999 from 369 to 350 in 2001, during which time the building was only 75.6 percent utilized. The percentage of students testing below the standard for math was 35.4 and for English 27.7, in 2001. Thirty-five percent of the students met or exceeded the standards in English and 24.3 percent in math.

"It's very hard to pinpoint what causes a school to decline," Smith said. "What I think is more important is to recognize that the school could be better than it is now."

Among those on the committee are representatives of **SCHOOL** on page 10



Snow dance

Two party-goers share a private moment on the dance floor at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 20th Next Wave Festival gala Tuesday night, held at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

Bear-ish on B'klyn

Bear Stearns demands city pay 'em to stay in Metrotech

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Bear Stearns and Company is threatening to pull 1,000 jobs out of Metrotech Center in Downtown Brooklyn and move them to New Jersey if the city fails to pony up tens of millions of dollars in additional tax breaks and subsidies from the city, according to a published report.

In a Dec. 11 New York Times article, sources cited as city officials and real estate executives said the company could save as much as \$40 million by moving to New Jersey and taking advantage of tax breaks there.

Bear Stearns' lease runs out at Metrotech in 2004 and neither Forest City Ratner, the company that owns Metro-

tech, nor Bear Stearns were eager to talk about the negotiations underway.

"They're coming to the end of their lease and things are taking their normal course," said Joyce Baumgarten, a spokeswoman for Forest City Ratner.

"We're living up to all of our deals in New York City, and as for Metrotech, we're exploring all of our options," said Russell Sherman, a spokesman for Bear Stearns. "I'm not going to comment about any of the negotiations."

If the report is true it would mark the third time in just over a decade that the global investment bank has held the city hostage by threatening to pull out if the city was not forthcoming with major tax breaks and subsidies.

The company took a 12-year-lease on **BEAR-ISH** on page 5

Facelift for D'town garage

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The city this week designated Thor Equities LLC, the company behind the current renovation of the Gallery at Fulton Street, to develop a Downtown Brooklyn parking garage at Livingston and Bond streets.

In addition to revamping the 606-space parking facility with new lights and security features, Thor Equities has promised to upgrade the mostly vacant 18,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space to attract national and local retailers.

"We don't have an estimate in terms of the timeline," said Steve Vinoff, a spokesman for Thor Equities. "It depends on when the closing occurs and then as soon as possible after the closing."

The four-and-a-half-story garage at 39-41 Bond St., between Livingston and Schermerhorn streets, was built in 1974 and the city Economic Development Corporation put out a request for proposals (RFP) last year.

Thor Equities beat out about half a dozen applicants for the designation, said EDC spokeswoman Cynthia Bergman. She said the determining criteria included economic impact on the city, qualifications, relationship to the surrounding communities and financial feasibility.

Vinoff declined to discuss the cost of the upgrade.

"Downtown Brooklyn has experienced a resurgence that promises a bright future as a major business district for the City of New York," said EDC President Andrew Alper. "Thor Equities' commercial and retail contribution will be a great addition to Downtown Brooklyn."

Thor Equities, headed by Joseph Sitt, the founder of Ashley Stewart Retailers, purchased the former Al-

bee Square Mall at 1 DeKalb Ave. in July 2001 for \$34 million. The mall is now undergoing a massive \$10 million renovation to reconfigure the stores for a national retailer to anchor the mall.

"Our company is committed to transforming Downtown Brooklyn into a powerful retail center, as demonstrated by our investment in the Gallery at Fulton Street," Sitt said in a statement.

Vinoff said the configuration of the retail space into larger or smaller stores "depends on the desires of those retailers that step forward."

See **GARAGE** on page 6



An architectural rendering of plans for the municipal parking lot at Livingston and Bond streets.



Bartender Mary Frederickson pours a cold one at the 66 Water Street Bar in DUMBO.

The Brooklyn Papers / Stuart Liberman

Brooklyn's boomtown

DUMBO's got it all

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

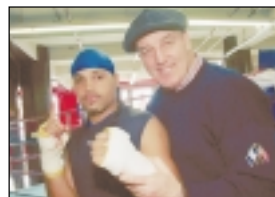
From the luxury Sweeney Building to fine dining along the East River, it's hard to look at DUMBO these days and not remark at the transformation. The expansion of the burgeoning neighborhood between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges seems to necessitate a recount every other month.

Inside one of DUMBO's oldest commercial establishments, Gleason's Gym, a second-story fixture in the world of boxing where everyone from Jake "Raging Bull" La-

otta (back when Gleason's was in the Bronx) to former junior welterweight champ Zab Judah have trained, you are about as likely to run into a CEO as you are a professional pugilist.

"There is no way to describe the change," said Gleason's owner Bruce Silverglade. "It's like night and day... We now have CEOs, doctors and attorneys—all walks of life."

See **BROOKLYN'S** on page 10



Light-heavyweight David Telesco with former heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney at Gleason's Gym in DUMBO.

The Brooklyn Papers / Stuart Liberman

After 50 years, Levine Bros. closing its doors

Merry Christmas

from **Brooklyn Papers**

Our offices will be closed Dec. 24 & 25. New Papers will be distributed Thursday, Dec. 26. The ad deadline for next week is Friday, Dec. 20.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A storied fixture of Fifth Avenue's retail row is leaving the strip at the end of next month. Levine Brothers Sporting Goods, on Fifth Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, is closing its doors after almost 50 years in business.

Prior to becoming a sporting goods store it was a candy and toy store run by the Levine family since 1929.

At the helm of the business is the surviving Levine brother,

Jack, 78. "It's time for me to retire," he told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

Many of the teams written across the jerseys sold at Levine Brothers didn't exist at the time the store's current incarnation opened in 1953. In fact, you'd be more likely to find a jersey boasting the names of the Brooklyn Dodgers back then rather than the big sellers of today, like the Mets and the Brooklyn Cyclones.

The neighborhood has also seen its share of changes, from variety stores to French restaurants and gourmet grocery



Jack Levine, right, with employee of 12 years David Acevedo at Levine Brothers on Fifth Avenue.

BP / Tom Callan

stores, although Levine generally speaks of them as if they were negligible.

"It's a nice area," he said. "It was nice when I was a kid... [It's changed] a little. Not much."

While Levine shrugged about the yuppiefication along Fifth Avenue, he praised the coming of restaurants, and said, "It's going to be nice," while acknowledging challenges afoot to classic mom-and-pop stores.

"A family business can stay around," he said. "But the next generation has to work, too."

Levine, who now lives in Bensonhurst, grew up in Park Slope and attended PS 321, when it was PS 77, and John Jay High School, which was known as the Manual Training High School.

His parents' candy store had an old-style soda fountain, inside the storefront that now stocks sporting goods.

Levine enrolled in New York University to study dentistry but got drafted into the Army in 1942. He served in France and Germany in World War II and left the Army in 1947, returning to the neighborhood.

By that point the candy store had been converted into a toy store and Levine took the reins of the business. About six years later he would convert it to a sporting goods store with his brother Julius, who died five years ago.

Over the years they watched the community grow up, providing the neighborhood kids with their first baseball mitts, cleats and uniforms.

David Acevedo, who lived across the street from the store, brought his son Adrian to Levine Brothers for his first

See **LEVINE** on page 5

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Brooklyn Tech takes top mag honors

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Technical High School's student literary and art magazine, Horizons, recently won more than a dozen awards from the Empire State School Press Association, among them the best literary magazine in the state.

In addition, the magazine took first place for best layout, by Renata Breyton and Gail Pennasillco, best photograph, by Andrew Raskin, and best non-fiction in a literary magazine, by Johnny Han.

"It's certainly an honor to be recognized consistently," said Giancarlo Malchiodi, who also won advisor of the year for school publications. "Especially as schools considered more artistic or creative seem not to be placing."

Eighty-year-old Brooklyn Tech, at 29 Fort Greene Place, is one of the top three public high schools in the city, providing a curriculum in engineering, including aerospace and civil engineering, as well as architecture, mathematics, computer science and liberal arts. Students citywide must grade at a certain level on an admission test for Tech, Bronx High School of Science and Stuyvesant High School to get in.

Horizons is a glossy magazine featuring writing, poetry and photographs, printed between once and twice a year, produced entirely by students. "It's strictly an extracurricular activity," Malchiodi said. "It's something they dedicate a great deal of time to."

Second Place awards went to Judith Alenao for best use of type image and for non-fiction and to Jenny Hung for art-work and illustration.

Third Place awards went to Alina Rabinakaya, Hung and Breyton for best cover, Breyton and Pennasillco for best overall design, Yelena Chernyakova for best photograph, Jessie Pinchoff for best non-fiction and Diana McWilliams and Chernyakova for best use of type image.

Phoebe Yuen and Alex Teller won honorable mentions for photographs.

Malchiodi estimated that more than 100 students participated in the production of the magazine, leading workshops on everything from fundraising to prose, as well as editing copy, selecting entries, photography, and producing the layout on a pair of 400 megahertz Dell Pentium III.

"A little ancient by today's standards," Malchiodi said. "But they get the job done."

The magazine is ad-free and subsequently the majority of the printing costs, which range between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per issue, are raised through student-run fundraisers.

The journal is also subsidized by the student government and receives money from the student activities budget. Additionally, the Brooklyn Tech Alumni Association kicks in a fair share of the costs.

Over the last several years, the alumni association has provided about \$5,000 for computers and printing. Alumni association President Michael Weiss said the funding allows students to take "some innovative approaches. Which is really great because it allows them to think even more creatively about innovation in design as well as the content itself."

Raskin's photography featured day-in-the-life shots of children. Han wrote a concise and stirring piece about being a non-English speaking child who grew to use language as an engine of empowerment.

The awards have racked up, not only from the Empire State School Press Association in the last few years, but from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, as well.

"Definitely in the last few years there's been an improvement," Weiss added. "The fact that these incentives have been created that allow them to do better work and see it presented in a better way, has included many more students who want to be involved."

U.S. News and World Report cited Brooklyn Tech as the fifth largest high school in the United States, with a student body of 4,700. The school graduates the largest class in the city each year.



Brooklyn Tech High School students (standing from left) Daniel Vilella, Regina Won, Ewa Jakubowska, and Gail Pennasillco go over student art submissions for next year's Horizons, the school's literary magazine.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

Sunday meter signs going up

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The first signs went up last week notifying Brooklynites of the switch from six- to seven-day parking meters in some of the borough's busiest commercial districts and raising revenue almost as much from parking fines as from quarters in the meters.

The move is part of a city-wide revenue-generating initiative by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The signs will go up throughout Brooklyn starting in Greenpoint and moving south through the center of Brooklyn down to Sheepshead Bay before picking up in Sunset Park and heading east, a DOT spokesman said.

"For a complete listing of the streets that will go to Sunday meters in the main sections, but why do you want to put them in the rest of Bay Ridge?"

One of the DOT's main goals is to get the city out of the red, he said. "If a person goes to eat, it's OK to park free for one day. I believe this is the wrong decision."

In 1999, Community Board 11, which includes the neighborhoods of Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Gravesend, voted to bring Sunday meters to 86th Street between 18th and 24th avenues to ease the movement of traffic in one of the neighborhood's busiest shopping districts.

"I wish more summonses were issued to the merchants who were parking overtime," said Howard Feuer, district manager of CB11, when asked how he felt about the fact that the new initiative would generate \$3.5 million in quarters and an estimated \$2 million in summonses.

"I want the shoppers to be able to park and the merchants to make as much money as possible," Feuer said.

"If the meters are not operational Sunday, shoppers will go to Kings Plaza or across the Verrazano Bridge."

The DOT said it did not take into account revenue from parking fines when it planned the Sunday meter initiative.

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights Councilman Marty Golden, who will leave the council for the state Senate in January, said the Sunday meters would be a detriment to residents in Bay Ridge. "To have additional meter maids going out

and giving summonses hurts the community," Golden said, noting that Bay Ridge was already a heavily targeted community with respect to traffic and parking summonses.

The Sunday initiative was passed as part of a budget modification that Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed

Dec. 2 after negotiating with the City Council. The package also included the much higher profile 18.5-percent property tax hike. Golden did not vote on the budget.

Asking that meter maids use discretion when giving out tickets, Golden said of the initiative, "Sunday is a bit much."

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Heights bank robberies continue

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two more bank robberies occurred this week on Montague Street after a string of robberies earlier this month.

One of the incidents, which occurred on Dec. 12, has been linked to the incidents of two weeks ago — with virtually identical mod operandi and a similar description of the perpetrator — while the most recent, which happened on Dec. 16, is less certainly connected to the others, according to law

enforcement sources.

On Dec. 16, a man entered the HSBC Bank on Montague Street, between Clinton and Court streets, and displaying a gun, he told the teller, "Give me all your money or I will kill you."

The employee handed over about \$4,100 and the perpetrator took off.

The suspect was described by police as a black male in his 40s.

This is the fourth bank robbery to occur in the area in the past two weeks and the first to involve a firearm.

While the other three seem to be linked to a single suspect, a police detective said, the incident on Monday has not yet been linked.

Because the bank robber used a firearm, the detective said, the FBI will investigate the case. The joint FBI-NYPD

Bank Robbery Task Force did not return several calls seeking comment.

On Dec. 12, a man entered the Citibank on the same block of Montague Street and gave the teller a note that read: "Pass the money. I have a gun." The teller pressed a silent alarm and

the suspect fled without taking any money.

That suspect was described as a black male in his 30s, about 6 feet tall and 180 pounds.

Two weeks ago, on Dec. 2, a man bearing a similar description walked into a Chase

bank on Flatbush Avenue at Nevins Street and handed a teller an identical note. The teller gave the robber \$400 and he took off in an unknown direction, police said.

Ten minutes later, police believe the same man entered a Chase bank on Montague Street at the corner of Clinton Street, and handed another note but fled without taking any money.

Police could not explain the reason for the robber's flight without proceeds.

Those bank robberies capped a day of bank robberies that started in East New York.

On Dec. 2, at 2 p.m., Citibank was robbed in East New York, police said. The robber in that incident also passed a note demanding cash and fled with an undisclosed amount of money.

The next day, another pair of bank robberies by threatening note occurred in Queens, beginning at a North Fork Bank shortly before 10 a.m.

The thief fled the North Fork Bank with an unknown amount of cash and yet another robbery occurred about 40 minutes later at a Greenpoint Savings Bank on Queens Boulevard. This time the thief fled with approximately \$7,000.

Officers could not confirm whether the incidents in East New York or Queens had been connected to the robberies in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.



The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Toy story

Borough President Marty Markowitz and Glorious Temple pastor Willie Robertson are all smiles at the Best of Brooklyn Toy Drive at Borough Hall Friday. The toys were collected throughout Brooklyn and distributed to various Boys & Girls clubs, church groups and youth programs.

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Law & order on B'klyn streets

Jerry Orbach on the set of "Law and Order" — the original, not one of the spin-offs — outside Cucina La Traviata on Joralemon Street Friday night. The New York City-based television program frequently films in Brooklyn, with many scenes shot at Borough Hall.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

Hooky trio beats cop

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A truancy patrol officer was allegedly assaulted by a girl and two women on Dec. 9, after he tried to get the girl, who was playing hooky, to return to school.

The officer stopped the 16-year-old truant at Nevins

POLICE BLOTTERS

Street and Flatbush Avenue shortly before 11 a.m. The girl resisted orders to go to school and her two companions allegedly blocked the officer from speaking to the girl. The three then allegedly jumped on him and punched and kicked the police officer. During the scuffle, the officer suffered injuries to his eyes and chest.

The truant and her alleged accomplices, 18 and 20, were all arrested for assault.

Like Randy

Perhaps thinking he was star Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss — who in September pushed a Minneapolis traffic agent half-a-block with his car — a Downtown Brooklyn motorist who was asked by a court officer to move his car from a restricted zone on Schemmhorn Street at Smith Street, instead tried to run the officer down.

At around 8 a.m. on Dec. 12, the suspect, 34, allegedly gunned his 1997 Ford SUV towards the officer. No one was hurt and the suspect was arrested.

Jealousy rage?

Holiday shopping turned ugly on Dec. 14 when a customer and his girlfriend, in a

clothing store at Fulton and Lawrence streets, were bludgeoned with an umbrella.

At around 3 p.m., the couple were shopping when the man, 42, ran into a female acquaintance, who struck him with the umbrella. Before leaving, the suspect allegedly took a swing at the victim's girlfriend, and said, "I am not finished with you."

The source of the hostility was not included in the police report and while the suspect had been identified, it could not be verified by press time if she had been taken into custody.

Jingle jangle

A burglar climbed through an open window leading to a fire escape on Third Avenue, between Bergen and Wyckoff streets, and jingled off with \$25 in coins.

The victim left her home on Dec. 7, at around 9 a.m., and returned two days later at around midnight to find various items in her apartment thrown about and the change gone.

Back stabber

A man crossing Hoyt and Dean streets on Dec. 15 accidentally bumped into another pedestrian, who responded by stabbing him in the back.

The victim, 29, told police that his assailant was walking with two women when he attacked him at around 4 a.m.

The perpetrator and his friends fled east on Dean Street.

Gift giving

A man walking into a gift shop on Court Street, between Butler and Douglass streets, and threatened the cashier into handing over \$500, according to police.

The thug allegedly walked into the store at around 9:20 p.m. on Dec. 15, and said to the 46-year-old employee, "You need to give me the money. I don't want to hurt you."

The woman handed over the cash and the robber fled.

Amity horror

A 28-year-old man's home on Amity Street, between Hicks and Henry streets, was robbed on Dec. 12, between midnight and 1 p.m.

Police said the burglar pried-open the door and stole \$300, compact discs, a boom box and a laptop computer, reportedly worth \$3,000.

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Toy story

Borough President Marty Markowitz and Glorious Temple pastor Willie Robertson are all smiles at the Best of Brooklyn Toy Drive at Borough Hall Friday. The toys were collected throughout Brooklyn and distributed to various Boys & Girls clubs, church groups and youth programs.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

4 burglaries in one day

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A string of burglaries took place on Dec. 12 within a space of several blocks in Park Slope.

A woman, 44, forfeited \$15 in coins to a Park Slope prowler who broke into her home on 11th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, sometime between 10 am and 6:30 pm. Police do not know the method of the burglar's entry, according to a report filed with the 78th Precinct.

Nearby, on 12th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, a brownstone bandit snatched a \$3,000 camera and a \$250 light meter from a 27-year-old man's apartment after breaking in through the window leading to the rear fire escape. The victim had left home at 8:45 am and returned at

around 10:30 pm to discover the plunder.

Also on 12th Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, a leather jacket, two watches, a ruby tie tack and a necklace worth \$2,050 were stolen from a 42-year-old woman's home while she was out between 3:10 pm and 5:20 pm. This time the thief cut a window screen to get into the apartment.

The crime spree, or coincidence of burglaries, then hit 14th Street, where a home off Eighth Avenue was robbed of a laptop computer, a cell phone and an MP3 player, with a combined reported value exceeding \$2,100. The 26-year-old woman left her home at 6:50 am and returned home around 7 pm to find out that someone had broken into her home through the window.

While all four robberies are proximal to each other, they

display separate modus operandi, police said, and detectives will investigate all the burglaries more thoroughly before announcing whether they believe they were committed by the same bandit.

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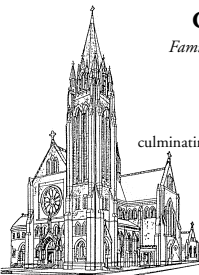
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Stickup duo nabs cash & butts

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A deliveryman was waiting in the truck for his partner to complete a drop off on Third Avenue, between 11th and 12th streets, at about 1 pm on Dec. 14, when a man approached and struck up a conversation with him.

While the two were talking, a second man punched the 23-year-old trucker and put a gun to his head.

The duo took the deliveryman to the back of the truck and tied him up, the victim told police.

The pair then drove the truck to Second Avenue where a green minivan was waiting to unload the cargo of 100 cartons of cigarettes and \$7,000 in cash.

No good deed ...

A man stopped at Saint Marks Place and Fourth Avenue to have a flat tire repaired on Dec. 13, at around 8 pm, when a passing motorist stopped to ask directions to Atlantic Avenue. But when the victim, 36, steered the motorist towards his destination he took his eyes off his bag.

The good deed had no influence over fate and when he returned to his vehicle the bag, reportedly containing 300 calling cards, worth \$3,000, and miscellaneous personal papers, was stolen.

Shopping spree

A 31-year-old woman was notified by her credit card company of suspicious charges being made to her account between Dec. 9 and Dec. 11.

One of those charges was allegedly made at a clothing store on Fifth Avenue at Ninth Street, and when she viewed a security video of the illicit charger she recognized the 55-year-old shopper as an acquaintance. Police arrested the allegedly corrupt consumer.

Pick on shuttle

A woman boarded a shuttle bus at Fourth and Atlantic avenues on Dec. 7 at 9 pm but sometime during the excursion to Seventh Avenue at Flatbush Avenue, her wallet, containing her identification, credit cards and MetroCard, disappeared.

A witness told the victim that a man was standing behind her during the commute and that his hand was moving back forth, although she did not stay to relate those details to police.

'Stabber' carded

A 35-year-old man, in possession of credit cards not bearing his name, was arrested

POLICE BLOTTER

by police on Dec. 15 after he allegedly tried to stab someone in the stomach.

Police said the attempted assault occurred at around 2:10 pm on Union Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues. They

tracked down the alleged stabber during a canvass of the area. Officers said the suspect was in possession of eight credit cards not belonging to him when he was taken into custody.

Rips out

Two airbags were literally torn from a 2002 Honda sedan.

The victim, 50, of Park Slope, parked at Second Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West at 9 pm on Dec. 11. By 7:40 am the next day, the airbags were gone and considerable damage was done to the dashboard.

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Bills seek to curb wayward truckers

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

New legislation is being introduced at both the city and state levels that hopes to put the brakes on truck drivers who take the law into their own hands.

Councilman David Yassky and Assemblyman Joseph Lentol each announced bills last week that seek to penalize truckers who deviate from designated truck routes and take their rigs onto residential streets.

"Off-route truckers wake up residents, damage property and even risk lives when they rumble through residential areas," said Yassky, whose district includes Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Greenpoint and parts of Williamsburg, Park Slope and Boerum Hill. "Without resources to catch them and [assess] appropriate penalties, trespassing truckers will continue to disrupt neighborhoods and diminish the quality of life of city residents."

Almost 14 million trucks make their way over New York City's bridge and tunnel crossings transporting two-thirds of all freight going into and out of the city.

Most truckers are aware of truck routes but often choose to ignore them, opting for more direct paths. Because the \$70 ticket amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist for drivers and the companies they work for — many of who calculate the amount into their shipping costs — it is often more cost effective for drivers to wind their way through residential streets.



David Yassky

BP / File photo

identical streets.

While Yassky's bill, the Truck Route Enforcement Act, would impel the city to increase the number of traffic officers who are classified to issue summonses to truckers from 20 to 60, Lentol is looking to bring legislation to Albany that would seriously beef up penalties for wayward truckers.

"We can catch truckers more often, but when it's time to punish them we have to have the state in line with us. And that's what Lentol's office is doing," said Evan Thies, a Yassky spokesman.

Cassara said increased fines for wayward drivers has been a long time coming. Double-parked cars receive tickets for \$105, while truckers, who pose a serious danger to the community, walk away with a measly \$70 ticket, Cassara said.

"[Trucks] are a big problem for Bensonhurst because we live so close to the Verrazano Bridge and they're looking for the fastest access out of Bensonhurst," said CB11 District Manager Howard Feuer. He said the biggest problem area for trucks in his area is Cropsy Avenue between Bay Eighth

and Bay 18th streets, and 23rd Avenue between Stillwell and Cropsy avenues.

For Bay Ridge residents the biggest headache is truck traffic coming off the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Instead of heading north on Seventh Avenue to 86th Street, the trucks veer south on Seventh Avenue past Victory Memorial Hospital and then around the south end of the Dyker Beach Golf Course before heading east on Cropsy Avenue from 14th Avenue.

Yassky's office said the most complaints in his district come in from Greenpoint, but that many people complain of truck traffic on smaller streets in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.

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Sunset Park Chinese health center opens

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The grand opening ceremony for a new health center to serve the growing Chinese population in Sunset Park and Bay Ridge brought the mayor to Brooklyn Wednesday morning.

Calling the event "a day of celebration for the community," Rep. Nydia Velázquez, whose district encompasses much of Sunset Park, as well as parts of Manhattan and Queens and contains one of the highest concentrations of Asian-Americans in the nation applauded the effort to provide culturally appropriate health care for her constituents.

Opened in June, the 4,000-square-foot Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center will serve the area's estimated 17,000 Chinese residents, a number that doubled in the past decade.

And while the staff is bilingual (fluent in both Mandarin and Cantonese), the center is equipped to serve the entire community.

The staff passed out blue umbrellas emblazoned with the health center's logo to the 100 or so community members, founders and elected officials who gathered in a tent adjacent to the facility on 54th Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues during a heavy downpour on Dec. 4.

Despite a pending transit strike, the mayor made his way to Sunset Park to welcome the center, albeit a bit late.

"This community health center has a tremendous need to fill," Bloomberg said, noting the neighborhood's growing Chinese population and the estimated 34,000 Chinese residents in nearby Bensonhurst.

Stressing the importance of preventative care, Bloomberg said the staff would have the language skills and cultural understanding to win "the trust of the community to deal with issues of tobacco and nutrition." Later that day, the mayor announced an agreement between his administration and the City Council on his



Cutting ribbon on the new Chinese-American health center are (l.-to-r) Primary Care Development Corp. Executive Director Ronda Kotelchuck, Borough President Markowitz, Mayor Bloomberg, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Jim Stiles of Lutheran HealthCare, Dinah Surh of Lutheran Family Health Centers, and Claudia Gail of Lutheran HealthCare. The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Galan

new tobacco initiative seeking to expand the city's smoking ban to almost all bars and restaurants.

The \$1.14 million health care facility was a joint effort of the Lutheran Medical Center and the Sunset Park Family Health Center Network and made possible through a grant and loan from the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), a nonprofit partnership of city, state, federal and private-sector funding available for projects that increase access to health care in the city's most under-served neighborhoods.

Operating at full capacity the center is expected to provide for more than 20,000 visits per year. Services will include family practice, pediatric, gynecological and dental care. The center will also provide services for the Chinatown Health Partnership, a program started after 9-11 to provide care to workers who suffered the loss of family members, employment or business during the attacks.

Borough President Marty Markowitz, boasting that Brooklyn would soon have the largest Chinese population in America, also beamed that Brooklyn was blessed to have

Lutheran Medical Center, which operates Lutheran Family Health Centers, the sponsor of the new center.

"When you have your health, you have it all," said the ever-ebullient Markowitz.

Before leading a tour of the five-story facility decorated in pastels and framed Chinese drawings, a traditional Chinese lion dance was performed outside

in the rain to the beating of drums and cymbals.

Flanked by representatives from Lutheran Medical Center, the Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center, and the elected officials, Bloomberg picked up an oversized pair of scissors and snipped the ceremonial red ribbon.

"Good luck," the mayor said in Cantonese.

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BEAR-ISH...

Continued from page 1

250,000-square-foot of space at 1 Metrotech Center North in 1991 after then-Mayor David Dinkins provided Bear Stearns with more than \$37 million in sales tax exemptions, property tax abatements, low-cost electricity and other subsidies, to move into the campus after it threatened to relocate from New York to New Jersey.

When the business pledged to build a new headquarters in Manhattan, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in 1997 provided up to \$75 million in subsidies, which was criticized by some as excessive and unnecessary after what Dinkins' had already given the company. The \$75 million package included \$45 million in tax abatements to keep at least 5,700 jobs in New York City and another \$30 million in tax breaks if the company could create 13,300 jobs in New York City within 50 years.

Bettina Damiani, the project director of Good Jobs New York, an offshoot of the Fiscal Policy Institute, a watchdog group for economic development agencies that give subsidies to corporations threatening to leave the city, said that before any city agencies agree to give out more public benefits to Bear Stearns they should make sure past promises have been consummated.

In the past, Damiani said, the city Economic Development Corporation (EDC) had generally taken figures provided by the company itself to analyze job growth, and because the deals are made without public input or review, the benefits are not widely known to the taxpayers.

"There has got to be a more proactive effort to make the economic development practices public," she said. "I think the way for that change to happen is for that change to happen in this administration to

change the environment in which a company demands resources from taxpayers."

Borough President Marty Markowitz vowed this week to try and keep Bear Stearns in Brooklyn.

Bear Stearns is a pioneer Metrotech tenant who has been a key player in the economic renaissance in Downtown Brooklyn, Markowitz said. "I will be working closely with the mayor and the EDC to not only protect our current job base but to try and attract more businesses to relocate here."

Others in the Brooklyn business community were optimistic the company would remain and said the subsidies were not unusual.

Jim Whelan, the director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, an advocacy group for economic development, said, "I think, at the end of the day, they're going to decide to stay." He cited Downtown Brooklyn's proximity to power grid, Brooklyn being on a separate power grid from Manhattan, the thriving business community and its proximity to the surrounding brownstone neighborhoods.

Defending the subsidies Bear Stearns was given in the past, Whelan said, "I think it is accurate to say there has not been a commercial building put up in the lower waterfront or Manhattan without some type of subsidy."

"I think there are other tenants at Metrotech that have renewed their lease and didn't warrant a Page 3 story in the New York Times," he added.

Other businesses that moved into Metrotech also benefited from various forms of subsidies, such as Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, which signed a lease for 9 Metrotech Center South last year with \$13.9 million in tax abatements.

real neighborhood institution."

Though he said he looks forward to retiring, Levine did admit there were things he'd miss, as he tossed a reporter a souvenir, a "Spalden,"

Brooklyn slang for a pink Spalding handball.

"I'll miss it," he said. "I'll miss helping out a lot of teams, a lot of kids who couldn't afford a ball or a glove."

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LEVINE...

Continued from page 1

ball, glove and uniform while a youngster playing for Saint Francis Xavier on President Street.

Adrian Acevedo now pitches semi-pro ball for the Allentown Ambassadors and David has worked in the store for the past 12 years.

"It's going to be missed," David Acevedo said. "It's a

Children of felons find joy in Slope church

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

A small Christmas tree sat decorated in the corner while carols chimed from a nearby piano. Torn wrappings lay at children's feet as family members encouraged the kids to try out their new toys and try on their new clothes.

It was a precursor to what will be limited in living rooms across the country next week, but normalcy may have been what was most extraordinary about the affair.

The Church of Getsemane, on Eighth Avenue between 10th and 11th streets in Park Slope, is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church created by and for prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. The church currently has about 90 members about 20 of which are incarcerated.

On Sunday, the children of

the congregation gathered in Getsemane's basement at the annual Christmas party.

"A lot of parents are not here," Doris Randolph, of Harlem, a member of the church who brought her own foster child and five nieces and nephews, said of the parents who are serving prison sentences. Randolph said the party provided the ceremonial and material trappings of the holiday for children whose lives have experienced turns that are far less festive.

Randolph, 55, counted a host of holiday blessings, having turned her life around after being arrested 97 times for petty larceny and burglary between the ages of 19 and 39. After her last arrest, in 1986, she became a member of the church, pursued an education and is on the verge of adopting one of her nephews.

"I was once banned from

every department store in the city," said Randolph. "Now I have credit cards and a master's degree."

Nearby, a nephew unwrapped a model airplane set and a sweatshirt from the GAP and Randolph's 6-year-old niece opened a set of colored pens and pencils, as well as a coat and a stuffed puppy. The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan donated the presents, which consisted of one toy and an article of clothing per child.

Outside the white-concrete, two-story building there would be little indication that it was a house of worship if it weren't for a sign above the door reading, "Church of Getsemane." Inside, a visitor is as likely to come across a production of "The Pirates of Penzance" as a sermon.

Also operating out of the church is Justice Works, a non-profit organization that lobbies

for change in criminal justice policies for women and children; Kolot Chayeyim, a progressive Jewish congregation; a dog-training center called the Educated Puppy; and, most recently, the Brooklyn Family Theater at the Church of Getsemane, which began last year.

"We feel it's important to bring in people from the community and provide a service, like the theater, for people that may not be part of our church," said the Rev. Elizabeth Alexander, Getsemane's pastor.

The family theater started last year and has since hosted performances of "Godspell" and Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," directed by Phill Greenland, a member of the congregation.

Next February the church will host a run of "Annie."

The majority of the congregation comes from other neighborhoods and even other boroughs to attend the services, Alexander said, although a modest following from Park Slope has developed.

"It gives people in the neighborhood a chance to be more involved in social justice," Alexander said.

Last week, Alexander, along with Kolot Chayeyim's Rabbi Ellen Lippmann and the Rev. Elizabeth Braddon of Park Slope United Methodist

Church on Eighth Street at Sixth Avenue — all members of the New York City Forum for Concerned Religious Leaders — were arrested for civil disobedience at a protest against a war in Iraq.

Getsemane — named for the garden east of Jerusalem depicted in the New Testament as the place where Jesus was betrayed — has existed since 1886 as an outgrowth of a service organization for female prisoners called Citizen Advocates for Justice.

In the past 16 years it has partnered with other groups, such as Justice Works, in addition to developing services to the families of the incarcerated as well as past offenders.

On Sunday, Santa Claus — back from an outreach visit to Otisville Correctional Facility in upstate New York the day before — and Mrs. Claus, a member of the church, bounced kids on their laps, as about 50 children tore through wrapping paper.

"We're just trying to bring smiling faces to the children," said Chibeeze Okorie, an evangelical minister and ex-offender who served two-and-a-half years on a drug conviction before coming to the church in 1991. "We're trying to do anything we can to make that happen."



Two young members of church member Doris Randolph's family, Imhotep and Angela, got a chance to sit on Santa's knee at the Christmas celebration at the Church of Getsemane Sunday.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangano

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Joan Millman

AND

SENATOR

Martin Connor



By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Swiftly moving to convert its broad "illustrative plan" into a working project, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation

received residents of the surrounding communities Saturday to weigh in on the more precise details of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

The development corporation (BBPDC), a subsidiary of

the Empire State Development Corporation charged with building the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational waterfront development between Jay and Joralemon streets, hosted a final public forum at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUM-

BO before studies for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) begin early next year.

A few, such as Kenn Lowey, a Green Party Assembly candidate last November, and Diane Buxbaum, of the New York City Sierra Club, used the opportunity to criticize the commercial components of the development — arguing, respectively, that the suffering private sector will be unable to support the park and that parks should remain public — while others asserted varying opinions of the alternative commercial uses.

About 150 people gathered to review details that had been previewed three weeks ago by the Citizens Advisory Council, a body of community activists from neighborhoods surrounding Brooklyn Bridge Park.

With ongoing issues facing the southern end of the park, such as the future inclusion of Pier 6, which would create an Atlantic Avenue gateway to the park, and the direction of pedestrian traffic off Joralemon Street in the interim, John Alschuler, a consultant for the BBPDC, admitted the plan remained "unfinished" in response to a pair of questions about access at the southern end.

Planners have been investigating ways to use Atlantic Avenue — as opposed to the significantly smaller Joralemon Street, where the park would end at Pier 5 — as the main route for pedestrians. Planners have been directing foot traffic around the Watchtower building between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue, slides of which were shown during the meeting.

"None of them are perfect," said Ken Greenberg, another consultant on the project, who added, "I hope we can regard all of them as temporary."

Some ideas were faced with staunch resistance, such as the proposition to create a salt marsh in the Cove Area at the foot of Main Street by blocking the beach's currents with a wall.

"The way it is, is the way it should be," said Ursula Hahn, a resident of Concord Village.

"Our goal was not to obliterate everything," said Matthew Urbanski, a consultant on

the project who led one of the four group discussions into which attendees were dispersed after an overview of the plan. "One was to accentuate the naturalizing process. That cove could be vegetated."

Many in the group, however, remained unmoved, and pushed for the preservation of the beach.

Lowey took issue with the plan for a hotel near Old Fulton Street.

"You have to realize that hotels are suffering," he said. "They could be making a huge mistake. You can't go forward without recognizing that."

Alschuler fired back that based on his conversations with the hotel industry, "They view this as a very exciting site in the city."

Features such as sound attenuation showed a somewhat course sense of what might happen, though plans are far from complete.

Ken Greenberg, another consultant on the project, said the sound volume on the waterfront currently rises to 80 decibels, which he called, "deafening."

A slope of mounded earth rising towards the expressway would absorb sound, he said, but "it's difficult to use as a park."

Meanwhile, the shape and height of a staggered bio-wall, composed of various plantings, against Furman Street, is also being explored in such a way as to not deflect sound back up to the Brooklyn Heights promenade or to block the view of the park from the walkway.

Surprisingly, the issues that have been the source of local feuds, such as a bridge over the promenade — an alternative plan proposed by residents of Joralemon Street — versus a tunnel from the Clark Street 2/3 subway station to Furman Street, did not halt proceedings or occupy a great deal of the group discussions.

"People are excited," said Jim Moogan, the executive director of the BBPDC. "Everything we heard today is possible."

The BBPDC is expected to select a design team by next month and hold public scoping sessions for the EIS in February or March.

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GARAGE...

Continued from page 1

While typically the disposition of city-owned property goes through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), Bergman said the project would only go before Community Board 2 and the Borough Board, comprised of Borough President Marty Markowitz, the Brooklyn delegation of the City Council and the chairpersons of Brooklyn's 18 community boards.

Bergman said CB2's recommendation would go to the Borough Board, which has the power to reject the proposed sale of the property.

"It does not have to go through ULURP because it's an urban renewal zone and the use is consistent with the intended designation of the property," Bergman said. "The EDC will go to the community board and the Borough

Board for review and approval of the business terms of the transaction pursuant to the ... New York City Charter."

The Brooklyn Center Urban Renewal Plan was devised in 1970 and underwent revisions in 1983, 1984 and 1985.

It encompasses the area from the corner of Bond and Schermerhorn streets, along Bond Street up to Fulton Street. From Fulton Street the border heads north along Gold Street to Myrtle Avenue and then south on Prince Street, curving at Fair Street to turn south again on Fleet Place. At DeKalb Avenue the border turns east to Ashland Place and then to Fulton Street. Along Fulton Street the perimeter turns west at Fort Greene Place to Lafayette Avenue, which then turns into Schermerhorn Street and finishes at Bond Street.

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By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A racetrack. A skateboard half-pipe. A jungle gym shaped like Antoni Gaudí's Temple of the Holy Family in Barcelona.

As the planning phase for Brooklyn Bridge Park shifts into the implementation stage, planners might want to consider a few of these new ideas for the park's northern corner, which come courtesy of a group of junior high school students who based their inaugural urban planning forays on the 1.3-mile commercial and recreational waterfront development between Jay and Joralemon streets.

How did the real planners who were on hand to view the models at Borough Hall Monday view the youngsters' efforts?

"There are lot of good ideas," said Jim Moogan, the executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation charged with building the park.

"Kids want action and recreation. Most of the designs had elements that kids could use to run around and enjoy," said Moogan. "They said they'd leave a little bit of the fun for the adults but it's a good indication that the kids want action and recreation."

With a \$25,000 grant from Assemblyman Roger Green through the state Department of Education, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition sponsored an after-school educational program for students from MS 51, on Fifth Street at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, and PS 20, on Adelphi Street between Wiloughby and DeKalb avenues in Fort Greene.

The students met after school for the past nine weeks in classrooms donated by the Career Academy, a vocational school for Phoenix House clients, in DUMBO with three teachers who have backgrounds in planning, preservation and architecture. Leading visits to the site as well as offer developable portions of the planned park, the teachers helped the students create architectural models.

The students were instructed to visualize, map and create models for the development of the 1.6-acre former parking lot for Consolidated Edison between Jay and Pearl streets, which the company pledged to turn over for Brooklyn Bridge Park in January 2001.

Using clay, colored tissue paper and foam core boards, the students crafted designs that ranged from subtle to eccentric.

"We wanted to create a playground from a kid's perspective," said 11-year-old Orakita Ukpong, a sixth grader at PS 20, "because adults build our parks and they don't have intellectual or fun activities."

Ukpong, along with seven other young architects, devised a fountain, with shrubbery, benches and flowers on the southern side of the lot.

On the northern side, however — of which PS 20 sixth grader DeKunle Oduntan said, "Here's where the action starts" — features a go-cart racetrack and an area reserved for laser tag. Each corner of the lot also contains a tree house.

Lauren McCarthy and Amanda Marder, both 13 and eighth graders at MS 51, put together a historically driven park, with a replica of Big Ben, a slide based on the Egyptian pyramids and the aforementioned Temple of the Holy Family ("El Templo de la Sagrada Familia") jungle gym, based on the work of the early 20th century modernist architect Gaudí, all enclosed by a miniature reproduction of the Great Wall of China.

Robert Barres, 12, and Kaila Green, 11, both of PS 20, put together a veritable sports complex with skate-board facilities such as an empty pool, half-pipe and a raised curb for railslides as well as basketball and volleyball courts with a five-hole miniature golf course on the southern side.

Their design was the closest to what is currently listed on the master plan for the park as a site for recreation, including tennis, handball, skating, playgrounds and a half-pipe.

Borough President Marty Markowitz, members of the board of the BBPDC as well as those belonging to the Citizens Advisory Council, a group of residents of the communities abutting the park, toured more than half a dozen models created by the 40 children who participated in the program.

In front of the students, Markowitz applauded the designs, "some of which," he added, "will be considered, I have a hunch, by the committee."

Kids plan the darndest parks



Lauren McCarthy and Amanda Marder, eighth graders from MS 51, work on their "Monumental Maze" design.



Amara Grutza (seated) and Tanzen Lilly of MS 51 work with Robert Diggs of PS 20 on their plans for Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Toddler spoiling for food fight?

Q: "My 2-year-old daughter places too much emphasis on food. How can I help her not be so obsessed with eating?" — a mother

A: Toddlers shouldn't be allowed to graze all day, but they do need to eat often because their tummies are small and their energy needs are high.

"It's a dilemma that a lot of parents have right now with all the reports about childhood obesity," says Elyn Satter, author of "Child of Mine: Feeding With Love and Good Sense" (Ball Publishing, 2000). "Don't make a fuss about how much she eats."

In trying to restrict a child's eating, parents can actually cause the problem they fear, says Satter, an expert in child nutrition.

"Food obsession springs from food restriction," she says. "If parents try to restrict, the child thinks about food all the time, has periods of overeating and gets fatter."

When the topic is toddlers and eating, the more typical complaint is pickiness and food refusal — one mom says her 2-year-old son lives on Burger King french fries, milk and Cheerios.

Whether you think your child is at one extreme or the other — eats everything or nothing new — your family will benefit from what Satter calls a division of responsibility about feeding.

The parent is responsible for the what, when and where of feeding. The child is responsible for deciding how much he eats — and even whether he eats. You're not throwing away control or opening the kitchen — you're planning and serving and the child takes it from there, Satter says.

Studies show that children are born with the ability to regulate their food intake according to the energy they use. Once you've chosen the menu and the times for three meals and substantial snacks, it's important to trust your child to tune into her appetite and regulate her own eating.

"I have a 2-year-old daughter who loves to sample food, too," says Lynn Stipulowski, a former school psychologist. "She will drop everything and come running for a cracker —



Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

in part, because she likes to try new food and in part because she doesn't want to be left out of anything."

As long as the child's height and weight are in proportion and she is eating healthy food, the mother should not worry, Stipulowski says. She agrees with experts: "The mother could cause an eating problem if she keeps obsessing about the child's eating."

Toddlers need structure and limits, but parents who are too controlling set themselves up for a losing battle over food, Satter suggests.

"Offer a variety of nourishing food at regular times."

"Let your child eat as much or as little as he wants at meal-

meals and snacks.

• Offer water for thirst. Don't give her juice or milk on demand.

• Put food away so your child doesn't graze on it. Satter suggests parents ask for an appointment with a dietitian or other professional who understands feeding if:

• You are making no progress toward having enjoyable, relaxed mealtimes.

• You worry a lot about your child's eating or growth.

• Don't allow handfeeding for food or beverages between

prolonged or continuous struggles about his eating.

• Your child's growth veers upward or downward abruptly.

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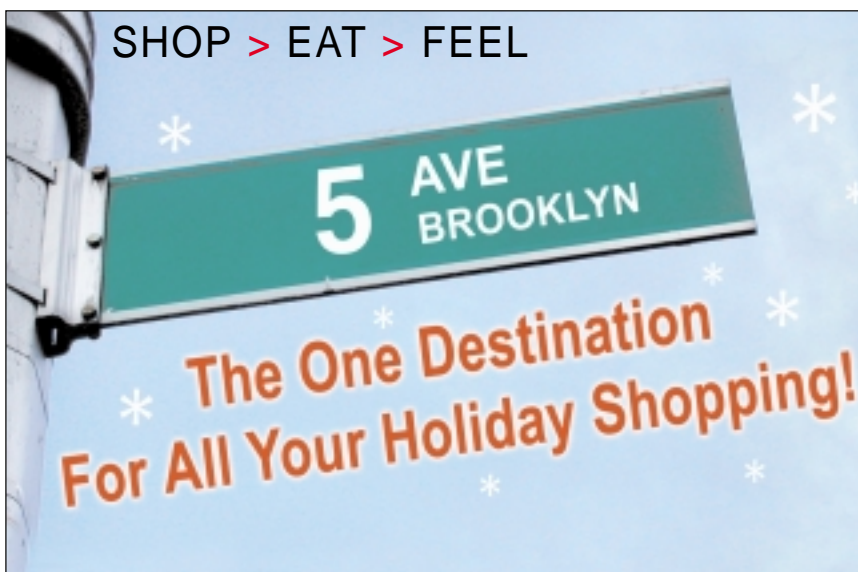
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BROOKLYN'S BOOMTOWN

Continued from page 1

Silveryglade now estimates about half of the membership are "white-collar boxers."

"I think about six months ago it became apparent that DUMBO has really changed from the way it had been over the last 20 years to a much more active residential and working community," said Michael Crane, the president of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association.

In October, the famous Manhattan home furnishings store ABC Carpet and Home opened a 40,000-square-foot store at 20 Jay St. and was joined by several stores along Washington Street including a copy shop, a bicycle store and Baby Bazaar, a 1,500-square-foot baby clothes and supplies store.

Nearby, Independence Community Bank took a 10-year lease on 5,000 square feet of space at 40 Washington St.

Marc Cohen, the owner of Baby Bazaar, came to the neighborhood two years ago and rented an office for an online baby supplies company before opening his store in November.

"I learned from being in the neighborhood there were all these retail spaces that were available," he said. "I think the main reason was that I saw all the new people coming to live in the neighborhood. They were all in their 30s and there were big apartments, so that means a lot of babies."

Bars and restaurants have also lined up to enter the neighborhood such as 66 Water Street, a bar, restaurant and lounge that opened in March, and Low, a bar-nightclub underneath the restaurant Rice at 81 Washington St. Five Front, a restaurant by the owners of Park Slope's 12th Street Bar & Grill, opened last month just outside the technical boundaries of DUMBO (Main Street, York Street, Jay Street and the East River) at 5 Front St. near Old Fulton Street.

And neighborhood stalwarts like the Between the Bridges Pub, at 63 York St. at Adams Street, continue to thrive. Park Slope Chip Shop Press 195 Rose Water 200 Fifth

Coupled with the advent of Peas and Pickles, a grocery store at Washington and Front streets, the Kino bar and restaurant, at 1 Main St., and Le Blanc Rouge, a wine store at 81 Washington St., DUMBO has begun to take its future shape as a relatively bustling neighborhood.

"I would say it's probably 90 percent the future and 10 percent what it is now," Cohen said of what attracted him to DUMBO. "I'm waiting for the park to be finished, more buildings, more residential buildings, which is going to happen very soon, and more businesses like mine because that creates cross opportunities."

Many of the neighborhood businesses were lured by rent abatements offered by the largest landowner in DUMBO, David Walentas, and his Two Trees Management.

Jed Walentas, a spokesman for his father's company, said the rent abatements are still being offered with variations from zero to \$5 a square foot per month and escalating over

10 years to about \$30 a square foot.

"There's not enough foot traffic for people to survive right off the bat, it depends on the type of business," he said. "You have to understand that there's no density down here. Even with all the work we've done. We've done \$100 million of work and it only adds up to a couple hundred apartments."

One of the biggest residential additions is the Sweeney Building at 30 Main St., former kitchenware factory that Two Trees converted into 87 units of one- to three-bedroom apartments costing between \$450,000 and \$2.5 million. About 35 apartments have already been sold.

Even with the growing residential and retail presence Walentas said there is still a long way to go.

"Three years ago there was no retail down here," Walentas said.

It's matured enormously and it'll continue to mature."

The DUMBO Neighborhood Association and long time residents are happily watching the area grow up while keeping a wary eye on overdevelopment.

"The neighborhood is generally excited to have more stores but people are concerned that the rapid pace of development will encourage developers to tear down buildings that make the neighborhood so attractive in the first place and remove some of the historic character and feeling that DUMBO has always evoked," Crane said.

Without having any land-mark protection from the city, Crane said there was some concern for the neighborhood's architecture and streetscape.

One place that has been consistently drawing visitors from Manhattan and elsewhere to DUMBO is the St. Ann's Warehouse on Water Street at Dock Street, which since opening last year after a long association with the Church of St. Ann and the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn Heights, has hosted performances by former Clash frontman Joe Strummer, David Bowie and currently staged readings of Oscar Wilde's "Salome" by Al Pacino and Marisa Tomei. At the end of summer, Water Street was home to the Guinness Oyster Festival, which spread across many venues — and the street itself — including 66 Water Street and the St. Ann's Warehouse.

The prosperity is also evidenced in the recent expansion of Jacques Torres' chocolate factory and shop next door to the 66 Water Street Bar. Torres, the first merchant to take out on the out-of-the-way block, which largely faces the vacant Empire Stores, told The Brooklyn Papers shortly after he opened his shop two years ago: "The street will be redone. I'm very excited about this neighborhood, intrigued by the galleries. It's a very high-end area where everything is good quality."

It seems to be shaping up that way.

SCHOOL...

Continued from page 1

electoral officials, such as Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yasky, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, PS 8 Principal Carole Friedman, teachers, parents and representatives from neighborhood organizations ranging from the Farragut Houses, just south of Vinegar Hill, to the Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA).

The BHA has tried to drum up support for the school for the past couple of years to increase enrollment from Brooklyn Heights, Fulton Ferry and DUMBO, which are neighborhoods that make up School District 13 along with Clinton Hill, Fort Greene, Farragut and Prospect Heights.

"The Brooklyn Heights Association's concern is we need a public school that people from Brooklyn Heights will go to," said Claire Mirarchi, the BHA's representative to PS 8, whose three children all graduated from the school between Middagh and Poplar streets.

"It used to be diverse from the Heights to Farragut," she added. "My kids really enjoyed their time there and there's really no reason why it can't be that again."

Mirarchi was unable to sit on the committee due to personal commitments but the BHA's executive director, Judy Stanton, has taken her place.

Stanton, along with other committee members, have ex-

pected schools that have overcome comparable problems as models for the adjustment. Last week, Stanton visited the Abington Avenue School in Newark, N.J., which based its program on the Bank Street College model of education, which stresses parental involvement and engaged learning, where kids have a more pro-active participation in their education.

"It should follow what Bank Street refers to as 'holistic,' balancing art, music, academics and health sciences with athletics," Stanton said. "Kids are not generally sitting in rows."

Millman said she hoped the curriculum changes would "encourage the community to use that school because for several years now Heights residents have sent fewer and fewer children to this school."

Smith said it was too early to say exactly how the suggestions would manifest themselves, either through new hiring or a complete reworking of the governance structure of the school.

On Jan. 16, the preliminary suggestions will be presented at a public meeting at PS 8 from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Smith said there would be another public meeting in February before the recommendations are presented to Superintendent Young in mid-March for implementation. It is currently anticipated that the changes will be in place by next September.



INSIDE

DANCE

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Classic 'Nutcracker' at Brooklyn Center

GIFTS

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • December 23, 2002



Oven fresh

Brooklyn offers a smorgasbord of holiday cookies, cakes & breads

By Zoe Singer
for The Brooklyn Papers

In the bakeries of this diverse borough, the winter holidays are celebrated with butter, sugar, eggs, nuts and candied fruits, from which are created a rich variety of festive cookies, cakes and breads. True, Hanukkah treats have come and gone, but these annual specialties can be enjoyed by everyone.

Cookies

A well-stocked cookie jar is the best way to prepare for unexpected holiday guests. (Actually, it may be the best way to prepare for most unexpected things.)

Cookies seem inevitable at Bensushen's Alba bakery, even if you came for the *pizza rustica*, a flaky Christmas pie with a marvelously smoky, prosciutto-studded ricotta filling (\$21.50 and up). Chances are manager Sal Alba will fill your hands with delights like his *buccellati* (\$7.75 per pound). These rolled cookie-dough gondolas, filled with figs and walnuts and covered with rainbow sprinkles, are like the original Fig Newton, and so much chewier and figgier.

And don't miss the Rococco — shatteringly crunchy wreath-shaped cookies studded with dandy toasted almonds, also topped with the obligatory rainbow sprinkles (\$7.75 per pound).



Stollen

This pastry-like bread originated in Dresden, Germany. Its flat, folded form symbolizes the blanket of the baby Jesus, studded with candied fruits that represent the gifts of the Magi. Like many holiday breads, *stollen* ages well, making it an appealing substitute to the proverbial brick-like fruitcake, should you wish to give a baked gift that, in a pinch, could be re-given.

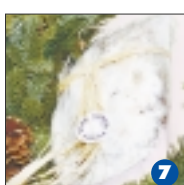
Paper-wrapped loaves of marzipan *stollen* made in Brooklyn are \$12.50 at Park Slope's new foodie destination, Blue Apron Foods. They are wonderfully buttery yet not heavy, sweetened by a rich marzi-



Panetone

This sweet, enriched Italian Christmas *broche* is usually baked in tall cylindrical pans. Since it is supposed to be labor intensive, it is often easier to find boxed, imported loaves — a suitable substitute if you can't get to a bakery that takes on the challenge. At festive Settepani bakery in Williamsburg, Chef A.J. brags that no commercial yeast is used in his glorious, tall *panetone* (\$12). He says that he's been using and replenishing the same natural yeast starter for 15 years. Buy two of the beautifully packaged breads — one to give and one to keep. (It will stay fresh for six months!) The bread is springy, just this side of dry, studded with fruits soaked in brandy for three months.

Equally wonderful is the almond-topped Italian fruitcake (\$15), which lasts at least three years, judging by the soft,



Holiday treats: Temptations abound in Brooklyn's many, diverse bakeries, such as: (1) Sweet Melissa's Buche de Noël; (2) Luigi De Rosa's *buccellati* at Alba; (3) Settepani's Milanese, Veneziano and chocolate *panetone*; (4) Royal Crown's chestnut bread wrapped in fig leaves; (5) Villabate's Sicilian cassata cakes; (6) Leske's yulekage (top) with raisins, lemon and cardamom and vorte limpa (bottom); and (7) Blue Apron's stollen.

All photos The Brooklyn Papers' Greg Margo

well-preserved specimen Chef A.J. has held onto that long. For the indecisive, the bakery also sells a holiday sampler tin of several miniature cakes (\$15).

See TREATS on page GO 2

ART



Winter colors

Paintings by members of The Brooklyn Watercolor Society are now on display at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Steinhardt Conservatory (1000 Washington Ave.). The winter-themed show, including Olive Reich's watercolor "December Still Life" (pictured), will be on display through Jan. 5.

The conservatory is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and weekends, 10 am to 4:30 pm. The Conservatory will be closed on Christmas and New Year's days. Admission is \$3, \$1.50 seniors and students and free for children ages 15 and younger. For more information, call (718) 623-7200 or visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Web site at www.bbg.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Nice 'Scrooge'

Marley's ghost walks tall at the Impact Theatre; Heights Players presents a shining 'Camelot'

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

"A Christmas Carol" was one of Charles Dickens' favorite creations. Not because its publication in 1843 met with phenomenal success, but because Dickens was so deeply moved by his story. In fact, years later, Dickens claimed that he laughed and cried over the story as he did over none other.

For the next 159 years, the story has continued to make people laugh and cry — not only in its written form, but also on stage and screen.

This holiday season, the Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company, newly installed at the Impact Theatre in Prospect Heights, will present its original production "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol," adapted and directed by J. Brandon Hill.

This is the fourth year Waterloo Bridge is mounting its production of "Scrooge." Past performances include three runs at the Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company's original theater on West 38th Street at Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, and a run at the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

The production certainly exhibits the smoothness that comes from experience. The main characters are all dressed in proper Victorian clothing and speak with proper English accents. But underneath all this propriety, there's lots of earnest fun and holiday cheer for the whole family.

"Scrooge" combines much of Dickens' original language (Hill narrates a good deal of the story, reading from a book) with audience participation, dancing and the singing of Christmas carols.

Otherwise, this is a fairly traditional rendition of the Yuletide story. Ebenezer Scrooge (Shawn Antar) is mean and miserly. Bob Cratchit (Chris Bakolas) is goodness personified. Tiny Tim (Madeline E. Russick) is angelic.

Antar is particularly convincing as the old codger, down to the slightly trembling hand and the stooped shoulders. And Bakolas knows how to blend Cratchit's submissiveness with a touch of defiance.

Hill displays his innovative spirit, however, in his treatment of the three ghosts that visit Scrooge on Christmas Eve. Instead of portraying them as ethereal creatures of the underworld, Hill presents a very solid-looking businessman in a miniskirt, a military officer with a foreign accent, and a surly young lady with purple hair.

Despite these newfangled ghosts, Scrooge again sees the light, is converted to goodness and mends his evil ways — thank goodness.

After all, what would Christmas be without Tiny Tim's chipper voice declaring, "God bless us, everyone!"

Lavish 'Camelot'

"Camelot," the Frederick Loewe and Allan Jay Lerner musical based on T.H. White's "The Once and Future King," about King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, opened at the Majestic Theatre on Dec. 3, 1960, just weeks after John F. Kennedy was elected president.

See CAMELOT on page GO 2

Where to shop

It's a good idea to order these holiday specialties in advance, since many sell out quickly or are not available at the counter.

Alba, 7001 18th Ave. at 70th Street, (718) 232-2122

Blue Apron Foods, 814 Union St. at Seventh Avenue, (718) 200-3180

Chaz Isabelle, 427 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street, (718) 832-0127

Leske's, 7612 Fifth Ave. at 76th Street, (718) 680-2323

Royal Crown, 6308 14th Ave. at 63rd Street, (718) 234-3208 or 6512 14th Ave. at 65th Street, (718) 234-1002

Panetone, The Royal Crown bakery and cafe, 9124 Third Ave. at 92nd Street, (718) 680-2347

Settepani, 602 Lorimer St. at Skillman Avenue, (718) 349-6524

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GO 2

THE BROOKLYN PAPERS

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December 23, 2002

CAMELOT...

Continued from page GO 1

The show, starring Richard Burton as King Arthur, Julie Andrews as Guinevere and Robert Goulet as Lancelot du Lac, was a huge hit and a favorite of the new president.

In November 1963, shortly after JFK's assassination, Jackie Kennedy asked for an interview with journalist, and family friend, Theodore H. White. During the interview, she compared her husband with the concluding words of the show: "Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot."

The myth for a long time preserved the golden reputation of the philandering and reckless JFK, but also put a special shine on Lerner and Loewe's musical, which was not much more than a fluffy attempt to repeat the success of their 1956 hit, "My Fair Lady."

Indeed, Lerner and Loewe again relied on the talent of Julie Andrews playing opposite a non-singing British actor. Other parallel elements certainly abound: the horseracing scene of "My Fair Lady" and the jousting of "Camelot," the love of an older man set against the love of a younger man, and the class consciousness of both the rich and the poor.

Lerner and Loewe also placed their play once again in the hands of director Moss Hart, choreographer Hanya Holm, set designer Oliver Smith and musical director Franz Allers.

The pair knew what they were doing, as "Camelot" ran for 873 performances and won Tony Awards for Burton, Smith and costume designers Adrian and Tony Duquette.

Over the years, "Camelot"



Fit for a king: In the Heights Players' production of "Camelot," the costumes are designed by Albert Walsh. Queen Guinevere (Tina Throckmorton) and King Arthur (Daniel Marston) are pictured.

was turned into a 1967 movie starring Richard Harris and Vanessa Redgrave, and has received frequent professional revivals (including a much-acclaimed production at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse in 1991).

This season, the Heights Players are bringing the musical to Brooklyn with a production directed by Ed Healy and starring Daniel F. Marston as King Arthur, Tina Throckmorton (Guinevere) who debuted last spring as Fiona MacLaren in "Brigadoon," and Fabio Talercio (Lancelot), who played Tom

THEATER

The Waterloo Bridge Theatre Company's production of "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Impact Theatre 190 Underhill Ave., at St. Johns Place in Prospect Heights, (212) 502-0796 through Dec. 21. Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m. All tickets are \$15.

On Saturday, Dec. 21, Waterloo will hold a benefit performance for the organization. Tickets for the show and party are \$20. For more information, visit the Web site at www.waterloobridge4.com.

The Heights Players' production of "Camelot" plays through Dec. 22, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15, students and seniors \$13. The Heights Players' theater is located at 26 Willow Place at State Street in Brooklyn Heights. For reservations, call (718) 237-2752.

mor, agile movements and bearded good looks remind us ever so much of a young Peter O'Toole. In fact, Marston has such a warm voice and endearing manner it's difficult to imagine why Guinevere's love would ever prefer the stiff and self-righteous Talercio.

While "Camelot" will always be a bit of a disappointment to those who love the title song, "If I Would Ever Leave You" and "What Do the Simple Folk Do?" as well as the spirited dance numbers, "Camelot" as a play only convinces when Guinevere's love would ever prefer the stiff and self-righteous Talercio.

But even with its blemishes, "Camelot" is a welcome arrival on the Heights Players' stage this season. The problem, King Arthur faces — the fight against evil, the rule of civil law and civility, personal agendas versus the good of the state, and the need for sacrifice — are dilemmas we are all too familiar with.

Perhaps Jackie Kennedy's view of a presidency that was a brief shining moment is exactly what we need today to light our path.

my Albright in "Brigadoon." The show delights with the lavish costumes of Albert Walsh and an unusually full orchestration of synthesizer, trumpet, woodwinds and percussion led by musical director Anne Rehabil.

The show also has excellent Jerry Pappas as King Arthur, Michael Blake as King Pelimor, and most especially, David Eason Smith, whose portrayal of the evil Mordred is like a wonderful breath of foul air amid all the cloying niceness in the play.

The most pleasant surprise is Marston, whose wry hu-

TREATS...

Continued from page GO 1

Buche de Noel

Funny how in America we have a television channel that features a burning yule log during the holidays, while this time of year in France most patisseries create a rolled, filled cake decorated to look (often uncannily) like a log.

For those who prefer the cake version, Sweet Melissa's on Court Street makes what is called a *bûche de Noël* (yule log cake) with a nutty, moist texture. (Call for prices.) The cake is rolled around a chocolate mousse filling and frosted with chocolate ganache that's ridged like tree bark. Meringue mushrooms and little marzipan elf boots, fruits and holly complete the log-like look.

At Chez Isabelle, in Park Slope, choose a chocolate, mocha, raspberry or peach buttermilk cake. I love the Grand Marnier soaked into the yellow sponge cake, but to give a seasonal spin to a child's December birthday, order a *bûche* that's light on booze, since the soft cake and nougatine buttercream will be otherwise delight all palates.

Cheesecake

Decadent and dense, cheesecake just screams holiday. In Bed-Stuy, Shakoor Watson adds his spiced sweet potatoes to the mix, to create an incredibly moist, addictive cake with a light cream cheese flavor and a salty, buttery grating layer. (Shakoor's sweet potato cheesecake is \$45 for a hefty piece and \$45 for a full cake.)

Sicilian cassata

Christmas dessert features a little bit of sponge cake, a rolled candy covering and a ricotta cheese filling.

At Villatte, in Bensonhurst,

the thin layer of cake is beside the point — your attention is demanded by the achingly sweet marzipan wall, and once you break in, an oozy, milky, barely sweet imported ricotta filling that could make you cry with pleasure (\$18 and up). Beautiful, sticky candied fruits gild the lily.

Holiday breads

Since we can't eat cakes and cookies all day, even in December, the holidays also inspire some plainer — though just as special — baked goods.

Chestnuts are harvested in the fall and in the streets of Europe they are roasted all winter. Due to a major chestnut blight in the early 1900s, we don't see many vendors of these rich, meaty-sweet nuts. But luckily, Brooklyn's famous woad oven bakery, Royal Crown, makes a crumbly, dense, nutty-brown, round chestnut bread wrapped in a fig leaf (\$4.75 per pound).

The bread has a coffee-caramel flavor, with the rich sweetness of chestnuts in the form of chestnut oil and a hint of chestnut paste. (They claim it's 95 percent chestnut!) The bread keeps well, and is equally at home beside a crumbly, nutty Siltson, a baked apple or a rich swirl of Nutella.

At Leske's, you can buy *limpa*, a sweet, Swedish rye bread, year-round. But only during the holidays can you enjoy your *forte limpa* (\$6), a spiced version with a candied citrus and a hint of rum. (It's well suited to grainy mustard and cheese.)

Of course, all these bakeries and more have woad ovens. And nothing marks the season as deliciously as those sweet, sticky specialties that disappear after Halloween and are gone by the first week of the New Year.

You may find that these traditional cookies, cakes and breads are self-fulfilling prophecies: if they don't taste like holidays of your past, they just don't taste like the holidays of your future.

WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS. DEC 19

CANDLELIGHT TOUR: Wyckoff House Museum hosts a tour of New York's oldest house, decorated for the holidays. \$5, free for members. 5 to 6 p.m. 5816 Clarendon Road. Reservations necessary. (718) 629-5400.

LIBRARY EVENTS: Brooklyn Public Library, Fort Hamilton branch, invites kids and adults to "Winter Arts and Crafts." 3:30 to 4 p.m. Fourth Avenue at 95th Street. (718) 748-6919. Free.

YOUTH SHOWCASE: Good Shepherd Services and South Brooklyn Local Development Corp. presents a holiday variety show featuring dance, video, song and more presented by students. 3:45 p.m. Middle School 23. Call (718) 652-0328.

MUSICAL THEATER: Students at PS 193 perform. 5:25 Avenue L. (718) 338-0111.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents the series "Ukrainian Dreams: Aleksandr Dovzhenko's 'Today' (Znynny) 1929." \$9.75. Live piano accompaniment played by Donald Sloan. Also, series "My Name is Andrey Terkovsky" presents the film "Spalok" (1979). 8:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4111.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of works by Dohnanyi, Henze, Poulenc, Beethoven. 5:35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-0383.

WOMEN'S HEALTH: Park Slope Food Coop discusses eating disorders, diabetes, candida, osteoporosis and depression. 7:30 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

BARBES BAR: presents The Healed Performance and three-part harmonies from "Two Boots." presents hilarity evening music with Thee Penny Opory. 10 p.m. No cover. 514 7:30 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

NEUTER CLINIC: ASPCA Cares. Mobile Spay and Neuter Clinic comes to Bushwick. Financially needy pet owners are invited to call for location and time information. (212) 876-7700, ext. 430.

crafts, outdoor explorations and mini-lessons. 2 to 3 p.m. Audubon Center at the Boathouse, Lincoln Road entrance off Ocean Avenue. (718) 985-8954. Free.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: United Praise Choir, Band and Orchestra of Emmanuel Church performs. 6 p.m. 279 Lafayette Ave. (212) 765-7017. Free.

RAW POTLUCK: Park Slope Food Coop hosts a raw food potluck dinner. Bring a raw vegan dish for six to share and \$3 donation. 7:30 to 10 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of works by Dohnanyi, Henze, Poulenc, Beethoven. 5:35, 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-0383.

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DINNER THEATER: Bread and Wine Productions presents "The Last Supper." 7 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Salome," by Oscar Wilde. 8 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond," by Edgar Allan Poe. 8 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

THEATER: "Scrooge: A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. 8 p.m. See Thurs., Dec. 19.

SAT. DEC 21

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WINTER BIRD COUNT: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts an early morning lake and checks population of birds along with guest TBA. 6:30 p.m. Free. admission fee. 10 to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-6431.

BIRDING WALK: Naturalists and winter enthusiasts are invited to a guided walk in Prospect Park. 8:30 a.m. Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.

PERFORMANCES

DINNER THEATER: Bread and Wine Productions presents "The Last Supper," dinner theater for 12 people in the playwright's kitchen. Suggested \$125 for dinner and show. 7 p.m. 514 7:30 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

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Last chance

"Holiday Small Works Show II" is now on display at Object Image Gallery [91 Fifth Ave. between Prospect Place and Park Place] in Park Slope. The show, featuring paintings, drawings and prints by artists — including Erica Harris' "Woman with Ice Skates" (pictured), an 11-inch by 14-inch wax collage on paper, closes Dec. 23. The gallery is open Fridays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment. For more information, call (718) 623-2434.

— Lisa J. Curtis

306 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

COMEDY: The Brooklyn Bowdler House is hosted by Ophira. \$5 admission, one drink minimum. 9 p.m. 273 Sixth St. (718) 624-0383.

PARLOR JAZZ: The John D. Martin Quartet. 515 Sets at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. 119 Vandewater Ave. (718) 855-1981.

CHILDREN

STORYTELLING: Santa Claus arrives at Little Eric Show. 1:30 to 5 p.m. Storytelling from 10 am to 1 p.m. 226 6th Ave. (718) 254-0106. Free.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Prospect Park. NYC hosts a holiday celebration. Take pictures with Santa and more. 11 am to 2 p.m. 357 Ninth St. (718) 788-7100. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "The Sleeping Beauty." \$6, \$7 and \$10. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: traditional African and Caribbean songs, drumming, dance and puppets. \$4, 1 p.m. Also, family science workshop "Snowflake Symmetry." Create a paper snowflake design. 1 to 4 p.m. Pre-registration required. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

OTHER

WOMEN'S MEETINGS: Older Women's League holds a talk "Worst Pills, Best Pills. At What Cost?" Registration served.

306 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

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10:30 a.m. Brooklyn College, room 432, New Ingersoll Hall, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 991-2490. Free.

THERAPY TALK: Park Slope Food Coop presents a talk by Estee Perle, a student of Polina. This therapy seeks to restore balance to your life. 7 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

FIVE MYLES: Opening reception for the exhibit "Small and Tall Artists." 3 to 6 p.m. 388 St. Johns Place. (718) 783-4438. Free.

CHRISTMAS TABLEAU: The Urethra Theatre presents Church hosts an annual holiday event. 3 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5560.

RECEPTION: Winter Show "3 Bow Thaw" at Studio 7 to 10 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 834-0111. Free.

SUN. DEC 22

PERFORMANCES

MUSIC: Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church hosts an Advent concert. 10:30 a.m. 424 East 19th St. (718) 282-6231. Free.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents The Moscow Ballet in "The Great Siltson." 8 p.m. Whitman Theatre, located on the campus of Brooklyn College, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

ABOVE THE RIBBON BANC: Program TBA. \$7, 8 p.m. 256 12th Street. (212) 561-5812.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "Camelot." 2 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

NEXT WAVE: "The Hard Nut." 3 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

BARBEMUSIC: Chamber music. 4 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Salome," by Oscar Wilde. 8 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

THEATER: "Scrooge." 8 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

CHILDREN

PUPPETWORKS: "The Sleeping Beauty." 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. See Sat., Dec. 21.

OTHER

TOYS FOR KIDS: day to donate to a children's toy drive for kids living at the Children's Residence in Fort Greene. Volunteers needed. Uptown Community Center. (718) 855-4400.

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Fri. Dec 20

RIBBON CUTTING: Connecticut Mall opens. 10 am. 423 Myrtle Ave. (718) 230-1689.

PROSPECT PARK NESTINGS: Open-air program for toddlers ages 3-5. Storytelling, music,

306 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

COMEDY: The Brooklyn Bowdler House is hosted by Ophira. \$5 admission, one drink minimum. 9 p.m. 273 Sixth St. (718) 624-0383.

PARLOR JAZZ: The John D. Martin Quartet. 515 Sets at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. 119 Vandewater Ave. (718) 855-1981.

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What a doll

Moscow Ballet's 'Great Russian Nutcracker' presents classic ballet in new setting

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Papers

It may only be a truism that, for example, French musicians play French music best, and ditto the British, Germans and Russians. But what is beyond argument is how acutely Russian artists have Tchaikovsky's music in their very bones.

Just how deeply embedded Tchaikovsky is should be borne out this Sunday afternoon, Dec. 22, when the Moscow Ballet arrives at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts for its version of the composer's most beloved ballet, "The Nutcracker," confidently titled "The Great Russian Nutcracker," and part of the Brooklyn Center's World of Dance series.

For a decade now, the Moscow Ballet has brought the grand tradition of Russian ballet to audiences in the United States, and its Brooklyn stop is part of a 10th-anniversary U.S. tour. Its all-Russian cast of 42 dancers, under the guidance of artistic director Vitali Alksandrov, began their dance training as early as age 8, all of the members of the company range in age from 19 to 30.

Unbelievable as it may seem to audiences today, Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" was not universally admired when it was first performed in St. Petersburg in 1892, on a double bill with his one-act opera "Iolanta." What now seems ubiquitous to people who have

grown up listening to his irresistible melodies, whether on TV shows, in commercials, the movies or the theater, began with a grudging admiration, if not outright enthusiasm.

Based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's fairy tale "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," Tchaikovsky's ballet actually came about rather fitfully, since the composer didn't see how the story could translate into a ballet. However, after reading a Russian translation of the French version of the tale by Alexandre Dumas fils, Tchaikovsky reluctantly agreed to give it a try.

By the time the 50-year-old Tchaikovsky began work on "The Nutcracker," he had already made his reputation as a creator of rapturous, audience-pleasing ballets. His "Swan Lake" in 1877 and "Sleeping Beauty" in 1890 had seen to that.

For the next 18 months, Tchaikovsky worked on both "The Nutcracker" and "Iolanta"; their dual premiere on Dec. 18, 1892 — marking the first time the ballet was performed as a festive holiday showcase — was politely received, but at the time, his richly coloristic ballet score, laced with such effects as a scoreless women's chorus and various "foreign" instruments (like the celesta, a piano-like instrument that provides the irresistible sounds for the climactic pas de deux, "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"), was considered too strange and modern.

The renowned choreographer Marius Petipa staged this first production.



The first toy story: Anna Alexidze and Alisher Saburov in the Spanish dance, part of the Moscow Ballet's production of the "Great Russian Nutcracker."

It's unfortunate, in many ways, that Tchaikovsky would only live another year, dying in 1893, at age 53, but perhaps most unfortunate was that he did not live to see his initially confusing ballet become a perennial. That same "confusing" score remains modern in the best sense: no matter how often it is performed, or in what guises its music pops into ours, its lively dance numbers — including several of the best waltzes this side of the Danube — are forever etched in our collective musical memories.

And that is what "The Great Russian Nutcracker" hopes to tap into. In honor of its 10th anniversary, the ballet commissioned the Moscow Festival Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Finnsen, to record the score for them "especially dedicated to the performance of the Nutcracker ballet," explained Alisha Talmi, producer of the Moscow Ballet. "The Great Russian Nutcracker Official Soundtrack" is specifically recorded for the tempo of the ballet, because you can't dance to the quick concert version.

Of course, it doesn't have to have col-

orful and lavish set designs by Valentin Federov, along with hundreds of costumes and life-size animal puppets to help along the enchantment, as well as a fresh re-imagining of Petipa's original choreography.

Based on reviews of the current tour, its approach is hitting a chord. "The people in the audience at the Show Me Center [on the Southeast Missouri State University campus] probably won't soon forget this 'Nutcracker,'" said a review in the Southeast Missouri newspaper. "You didn't have to be a balletomane to appreciate the extraordinary abilities of this company."

One slight, and inarguably timely, change from the original is that the ballet's young heroine, Clara (or Masha, as she is in the Russian version), no longer enters the Land of Sweets for the beguiling second act; rather, she enters the Land of Peace and Harmony, or *mir*.

But by any name, the Moscow Ballet's version of Tchaikovsky's timeless classic should be a "Nutcracker" to cherish.

Additional reporting by Lisa J. Curtis.

DANCE

The Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents The Moscow Ballet production of "The Great Russian Nutcracker" Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Walt Whitman Theater on the Brooklyn College Campus, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nstrand av. Tickets are \$35. For tickets and Web site at www.brooklyncenter.com.

women's chorus and various "foreign" instruments (like the celesta, a piano-like instrument that provides the irresistible sounds for the climactic pas de deux, "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy"), was considered too strange and modern.

The renowned choreographer Marius Petipa staged this first production.

Mon, Dec 23

JUDGES NIGHT: Colombian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn hosts its annual event to honor Judges County and Staten Island Judges of Italian origin 4 pm, Garibaldi, 2911 West 15th St. Call for tickets info. (718) 875-0158.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Abraham presents series "Israel: Her History, Culture and Meaning" Today, "G-d's Promise to the Jews," 8 pm, 117 Remsen St. (718) 802-1827. Free.

BARBES BAR: Live "Last Days of Pompeii" (1945). No cover, 9 pm, 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

OBJECT IMAGE GALLERY: Last chance to see "Holiday Smog" by 17 artists. Call for hours, 91 Fifth Ave. (718) 623-2434.

Tues, Dec 24

Christmas Eve

SUPPORT: Maimonides Medical Center support group for people with prostate cancer. Pre-registration necessary, 7:30 to 11 am, 6323 Seventh Ave. (718) 283-4955. Free.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: First Unitarian Church candlelight service featuring the music of Saint-Saens, 5 pm, Pierpont Street at Monroe Place (718) 624-5464.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church, 7:30 pm, 424 East 19th St. (718) 282-5353.

HOLIDAY SERVICE: Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims service

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail, 60 Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 24 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242, or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

Wed, Dec 25

Christmas

BOROUGH PARK TOUR: 92nd Street Y of Manhattan hosts a tour, Urban historian Robert Purman leads a walk around the largest Hasidic community in the United States, 5:20-11 am to 1 pm. Call for meeting location, (212) 415-5500.

Thurs, Dec 26

BARBEMUSIC: chamber music program of the complete works for cello and piano, Part 1, by Beethoven, 5:35-7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond," 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

Fri, Dec 27

TAI CHI: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a session with volunteer

of Holy Communion. Music features the Plymouth Choir and the Plymouth Brass Ensemble, 6 pm, Orange Street, between Hicks and Henry streets, (718) 624-1743.

TODDLER PROGRAM: Prospect Park Nestlings invites toddlers, ages 3 to 5 to enjoy activities such as storytelling, music, crafts, outdoor exploration and lessons in natural science, 2 pm, Audubon Center at the Prospect Park Boathouse, (718) 287-3400. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: A holiday workshop for Kwanza, 5:45-7:30 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

SUPPORT: Maimonides Medical Center offers a support group for people with breast cancer. Pre-registration necessary, 7:30-9 pm, 6323 Seventh Ave. (718) 283-4955. Free.

BARBEMUSIC: chamber works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky, 5:35-7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond," 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

Sat, Dec 28

OUTDOOR SKATING: Prospect Park's Kate Willman Rink is open, \$4 rental fee, \$4 admission fee, 10 am to 1 pm and 2 to 6 pm and 7 to 10 pm. Enter

park at Parkside and Ocean avenues, (718) 287-4431.

WINTER WALKS: 1 to 2 pm, Audubon Center, Prospect Park near Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3400. Free.

BARBEMUSIC: presents a chamber music program of works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky, 5:35-7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond," a story about a doomed love triangle, 5:30-7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

VOYEURISTIC THEATER: Collapsible Giraffe presents "Meat is Floating By." Performers absent, rant, crits, suicide notes, drink and torture one another, in small ways, 5:12-9 pm, 145 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 388-2251.

PROSPECT PARK ZOO: Kids of all ages are invited to learn about animals, \$2.50, \$1.25 seniors, 50 cents children age 3 to 12, (718) 399-7329.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents a New Year's Family Dance Celebration, 5:45-7:30 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

Sun Dec 29

CONCERT: Flatbush Congregational Church organ and vocal concert as part of its Sunday morning service, 10:45 am, 424 East 19th St. (718) 282-5353. Free.

BARBEMUSIC: chamber music program of the complete works for cello and piano Part 2, by Beethoven, 5:35-7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond," 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: presents "Any Facts." Kids are invited to "What's the Story?" where every work of art tells its tale, 56 children 12 and younger free, 11 am and 2 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5000.

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263 Third Avenue
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Plan Your
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Our delicious
menu includes:

APPETIZERS:

- Hot Antipasto
- Arugula with Grilled Portobello mushrooms
- Special Caprese Salad with fresh tomatoes, mozzarella, roasted peppers, asparagus & prosciutto

PASTA:

- Tagliatelle Verdi Alla Calabrese
- Penne Siciliana
- Lobster Ravioli
- Linguine with Pesto
- Linguine with White Clam Sauce

ENTRÉES:

- Linguine with Seafood & Lobster
- Veal Chop Valdostana
- Osso Buco
- Chicken Trattoria Mulino
- Daily Specials including Fresh Fish of the Day



Special Menu
for
New Year's Eve

Call for
Reservations



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133 Fifth Ave

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This Holiday season,
have a ball at
Laura's Restaurant.

Come celebrate a very special Christmas
Eve with us. Enjoy an array of delicious
Italian specialties, or our Traditional
Christmas Eve Seafood Dinner.

We are also open for a spectacular
New Year's Eve, serving our most delicious
family recipes. Join our family, friends and
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Happy Holidays from
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OR, IF YOU PREFER, WE CAN DELIVER OUR DELICIOUS
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Laura's Gourmet Restaurant (718) 436-3715
1235 Prospect Avenue, Corner of Reeve Place, Brooklyn NY
Off the Fort Hamilton Parkway F train stop.

Happy New Year!

9pm to 2am

Come Celebrate New Year's Eve
with a Sumptuous Five Course Dinner

Insalata D'Agostata
Lobster Adorned with Tropical Fruit
& Lime Vinaigrette Dressing

Tortellacci Di Magro
Tortellacci stuffed with spinach, ricotta,
topped with parmigiano cheese, butter & sage

Gamberoni alla Griglia
Grilled Prawns served over Rice Pilaf

Mignonette Di Manzo Al Barolo
Filet mignon topped with mushrooms, garnished
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Coffee & Dessert

Inclusive Price of \$125 per person.
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Marco Polo RISTORANTE

Come and Celebrate

Xmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Under the Gas-Lit
Chandeliers at

Tues., Dec. 24th and
Tues., Dec. 31, 2002

Gage & Tollner

Special Holiday Menu

From Tantalizing Appetizers & Salads

Seafood Extravaganza, Mozzarella 'Wellington,'
Maryland Crabcakes, Grilled Portobello & Goat Cheese

To Hearty Dinner Entrées

Surf & Turf of Lobster Tail & Filet Mignon,
Lobster & Linguini 'Fra Diavolo,' Horseradish-Crusted Tuna,
Beef Tenderloin 'Wellington,' or Long-Island Duck 'A L'Orange'

To Luscious Cakes & Tarts

Vienna Chocolate Cake, Creamy NY Cheesecake,
Fresh Mixed-Berry Tart, or Lemon 'Torta della Nonna' and much more...

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372 Fulton St. (at Jay St.) (718) 875-5181
DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN

Complimentary Valet Parking (After 5pm)

WELCOME AROUND BROOKLYN

This Christmas Eve, leave the cooking—and the dishes—to the professionals. The following Brooklyn restaurants, bars and bakeries open on Christmas Eve and may offer a prix fixe menu or other special before you go to confirm hours of operation and to inquire if reservations are necessary. Happy holidays!

9602 Third Ave., at 79th Street, (718) 238-7071 (Via, MC, AmEx, Entree)
\$12-\$25.

Executive Chef Brandon O'Sullivan's restaurant opened 26 in Bay Ridge and 100-part certified Black Angus steaks are grilled to perfection. After a 10-minute sear, the succulent steak, garlic butter, creamy sauce, and a side of mashed potatoes or mixed vegetables. Appetizers range from classic macaroni and cheese to an "onion-buttered" Gorgonzola.

Archives

333 Adams St., at Tillary Street, (718) 222-6543 (www.marriott.com/nycbk) (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa, Entree)

Located in the New York Marriott Brooklyn, this spacious restaurant is a gem, with comfortable seating. Archives offers a wide variety of seafood, pasta, poultry, beef and vegetable dishes for every taste. Some entrees by Executive Chef Walter Plenderle include fettuccine pasta with grilled chicken and pan-seared halibut with sautéed spinach and sweet potato. Also, chicken and wild mushrooms. Archives includes the Saturday evening "Seafood Extravaganza" and Sunday Champagne brunch.

Aunt Suzie's
247 Fifth Ave., at Carroll Street, (718) 788-3377 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Entree) \$7.90-\$14.00.

The family portraits covering her walls will make you feel like you've been home. Aunt Suzie's is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food. Aunt Suzie's is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food.

Traditional Italian food, offering the most traditional Italian food and drink. Aunt Suzie's is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food. Aunt Suzie's is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food.

Bay Ridge Sushi
6819 Third Ave., at 68th Street, (718) 491-6543 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Entree) \$7.95-\$17.95.

Step into Bay Ridge Sushi and you're in the heart of the hula and hula. Bay Ridge Sushi is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food. Bay Ridge Sushi is a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food.

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Bierkraft

191 Fifth Ave., at Union Street, (718) 225-7600.

Walk into this gourmet shop and you'll be surrounded by more than 600 kinds of beer! Bierkraft is also very particular about the 190 cheeses they stock, most made by small producers. There's a member of the American Cheese Society.

The nice selection of fresh breads, cheeses from around the world and gourmet prepared foods make spectacular gift baskets.

Cafe Kai

151 Smith St., between Bergen and Wyoff streets, (718) 596-3466. Cash only. Entree: \$5-\$8.

This vegetarian, organic juice bar opened in July 2002 on the over fashionable Smith Street. The cafe now offers a selection of hot dishes, in addition to its sandwiches, salads and variety of veggie dishes, which change daily to keep customers coming back for their take-out. The warm cafe is also a place where you can relax and enjoy your favorite food.

Casa Pepe

114 Bay Ridge Ave., at 49th Street, (718) 853-8863 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Entree) \$7.95-\$12.95.

The county Spanish and Mexican style of Casa Pepe will put a grin on your face on Christmas Eve. You can stand up to advance on their soups including potato soup and butternut squash soup and green onion and their breads and muffins—a delightful addition to your holiday feast with hosting overnight guests.

Ciao Bella

118 Hudson St., at Bedford Street, (718) 599-8550 (Via, MC, Visa, Entree) \$8-\$24.

Recently relocated to a larger space on North Eighth Street, Ciao Bella Ristorante offers a wide variety of Italian food in a casual, enjoyable environment. Ciao Bella uses all fresh ingredients in its entrees, which include a number of pasta, meat and seafood dishes. Signature menu items include a black linguine with shrimp in a spicy tomato sauce, Chicken alla Milanese, pan-fried rack of veal with arugula and mushroom risotto, and a variety of many popular dishes. Ciao Bella also offers a wide variety of appetizers, sandwiches and salads.

Now serving weekend brunch as well, Ciao Bella offers a mouth-watering menu of all fresh ingredients. The menu is updated weekly, as well as eggs Benedict and eggs Florentine. The brunch features the Ciao Bella omelet, a delicate combination of fully egg, cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and vegetables or pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Can't wait to eat? Call for large groups and private parties.

Cebu

8801 Third Ave., at 88th Street, (718) 492-5095 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa, Entree) \$9-\$22, pizza \$9-\$10.

Cebu offers a bar scene with dining. The menu is "international eclectic," with salads, pasta and seafood. Dishes range from fish and chips to steak to lamb to whole lobster and blue point options.

Chef Nite

783 Third Ave., at 78th Street, (718) 921-0771 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Entree) \$13-\$19.

Born in Palermo, Chef Nite gained much of his culinary experience as a chef abroad several Italian cuisine shops. His

cooking style carries the influences of Sicily, Milan, Naples and Rome. Popular dishes in this intimate, casual restaurant include octopus served Sicilian style in balsamic vinaigrette dressing and wild shrimp. Milan in a piece of carrot, celery and rosemary wine sauce, served over risotto. Chef Nite also serves fresh seasonal fish—salmon, mackerel, striped bass, swordfish and tuna. Desserts are made on site, including chocolate mousse, cake, tiramisu, creme caramel, cheese cake and ice cream.

Chez Isabelle

427 Seventh Ave., at 43rd Street, (718) 830-0127. Cash or checks only. Pastries: \$1-\$6.

All of the French pastries and delicacies here are homemade. You can choose from a variety of pastries, including croissants, quiches, cakes, and cookies and then enjoy them in the bright yellow and blue cafe or at the tables outside. This is just the place to go for gourmet delicacies at a very affordable price. Croissant aux amandes, chocolate cake, and more.

Some options for the main course: camembert of goats, shrimp in garlic sauce and fresh asparagus, or a salmon steak broiled in olive oil with lentils, spinach and asparagus. Brought to you table fresh, or hand-dipped in a rich cream sauce, or a salmon steak broiled in olive oil with lentils, spinach and asparagus.

Chezo Oskar

211 DeKalb Ave., at Adolph Street, (718) 853-6200 (Via, MC, AmEx, Average entree \$8-\$20).

Chef Oskar offers some of the best French bistro fare—with hints of the Caribbean—in this French bistro. The menu is updated weekly, as well as eggs Benedict and eggs Florentine. The brunch features the Ciao Bella omelet, a delicate combination of fully egg, cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and vegetables or pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Can't wait to eat? Call for large groups and private parties.

mixed vegetables and raisins, served with olive oil. If you're a novice fan, go for the tuna, marinated in lime, grape, garlic and coconut juice.

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Coco Roco Restaurant

392 Fifth Ave., at South Street, (718) 965-3376 (Via, MC, DC, AmEx, Entree) \$4.95-\$15.95.

Coco Roco, a Park Slope Panera restaurant, boasts that they have the best Italian food in the city. The menu is updated weekly, as well as eggs Benedict and eggs Florentine. The brunch features the Ciao Bella omelet, a delicate combination of fully egg, cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and vegetables or pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Can't wait to eat? Call for large groups and private parties.

Cono & Sons O'Pescatore

301 Graham Ave., at Avenue Street, (718) 388-0168 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa, Entree) \$8.95-\$29.95.

Cono & Sons O'Pescatore is a light, airy, well-lit, casual Italian restaurant. The menu is updated weekly, as well as eggs Benedict and eggs Florentine. The brunch features the Ciao Bella omelet, a delicate combination of fully egg, cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and vegetables or pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Can't wait to eat? Call for large groups and private parties.

Cocina Cuzco

229 Seventh Ave., at Third Street, (718) 788-5038 (AmEx, MC, Visa, Entree) \$15-\$19.95.

This colorful eatery has a colorful menu as well, featuring South American cuisine from Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica and Colombia. The stunning picturesque interior is furnished with a gorgeous outdoor fish tank. Order the paper plates for starters, pasta, stuffed with beef,

offering, like homemade ceviche, well-chilled dips, shrimp, and fresh seafood. The menu is updated weekly, as well as eggs Benedict and eggs Florentine. The brunch features the Ciao Bella omelet, a delicate combination of fully egg, cheese, mushrooms, tomatoes, onions and vegetables or pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Can't wait to eat? Call for large groups and private parties.

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Lighting ideas from around the borough

The Brooklyn Papers

With darkness falling at 4:30 pm this time of year, thoughts naturally turn to lighting. It's a good time to assess each room's brightness and to evaluate changing needs.

Are you weighing track lighting? Floor or table lamps? Hanging fixtures or chandeliers? **Lamp Warehouse** is a marvelous store to shop in: six huge showrooms of every kind of fixture you can imagine, in a setting studded with lovely antique furniture and luxurious carpets. Not only does it feel homey, but the displays allow a shopper to get a feeling of how a particular lamp or hanging fixture would look in a home setting.

Each showroom features a different type of lighting: one full of crystal chandeliers, one with hundreds of table and floor lamps (including an impressive display of stained glass Tiffany lamps), one with modern fixtures, and a room full of an unusual collection of museum quality lamps and hanging fixtures. Large displays of ceiling fans, bath-

ADVERTISER FOCUS

room lighting, recessed lighting, fluorescents, track lighting, scones, outdoor lighting, lampshades and specialty bulbs are found towards the rear of the store.

Owner Bill Ain warns not to overlook the function of a particular light in favor of its beauty. "People often put up a fixture that looks great but doesn't deliver the light they need," he says. "They may get used to insufficient light, but the room never quite feels comfortable without an apparent reason why."

He also suggests that customers should consider the function of the room and whether they want ambient light or task lighting. The Ain family has been operating **Lamp Warehouse** for more than 30 years, and can help you with virtually any technical or decorating question.

Lamp Warehouse is located at the corner of Fort Hamilton Parkway and 39th Street on the Kensington side of Borough Park (39th Street between 10th and 12th avenues).

To visit, take the W or M trains to the Fort Hamilton Parkway station, or take the Prospect Expressway to Fort Hamilton Parkway (then pass the border of Green-Wood Cemetery, and turn right on 39th Street).

Lamp Warehouse is closed on Wednesdays, and open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 am-5:30 pm; Thursdays, 9 am-8 pm and Saturdays and Sundays 10 am-5 pm. The store will be closed Dec. 25 thru Jan. 6. All major credit cards accepted. For more information, call (718) 436-2207.

Creative Lighting opened its doors in Cobble Hill in 1987, attracted to the area by its large residential market, and the lack of any other lighting store in the surrounding neighborhoods. Sixteen years later, it has developed another distinct customer base: electricians and contractors, to whom it sells on a wholesale basis.

The residential customer benefits from this in two ways: access to a wide selection of fixtures and brands, as well as to the on-staff lighting engineer and designer. This feature can be especially helpful to those building or renovating a home, and the information can be co-ordinated with your architect's plans.

Creative Lighting's showroom space is small, but represents a smattering of many types of lighting: crystal and modern chandeliers, track lighting, recessed downlights, children's lamps.

What's not on display can be seen and ordered through the many manufacturer's sample books. You'll find Lightolier, Progress, Halo and Kichler brands to choose from, among others.

Creative Lighting is located at 223 Court St., at the corner of Warren Street, and is open Sundays, 10 am-3 pm; Mondays-Wednesdays, 8:30 am-5:30 pm; Thursdays, 8:30 am-7 pm; and Fri 8:30 am-1:30 pm (They are closed on Saturdays). All major credit cards accepted. For more information, call (718) 935-0393.

If you're looking for a small decorative gift lamp, **Fabric Alternative** has some nice ones on display, ranging from \$44 to \$60. They come in fun and interesting shapes and colors, some with beaded and fabric shades, some Tiffany-style night lights, and some featuring an angel on a cloud or a crescent moon.

Fabric Alternative is located at 78 Seventh Ave. in Park Slope. For more information, call (718) 857-5482.

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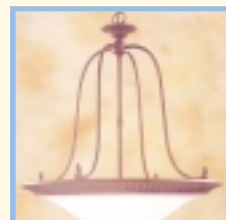
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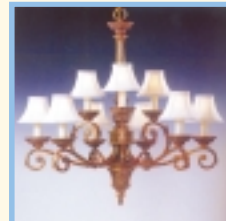
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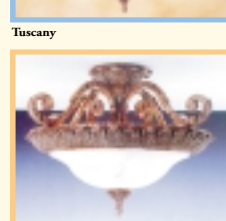
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